From: Bohl, James
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: Fwd: Estabrook Dam Removal Petitions and Links
Date: Thursday, October 27, 2016 6:05:16 PM
Attachments: ATT00001.htm
EstabrookDamPetitionSigners_10.26.16_MkeCC.pdf
ATT00002.htm
MilwaukeeCommonCouncil_MRKPetitionCoverLetter_10.26.16.pdf
ATT00003.htm
Dam removal petition 1.pdf
ATT00004.htm
Dam removal petition 2.pdf
ATT00005.htm
Petition area - Glendale.pdf
ATT00006.htm
Will Wawrzyn Estabrook Dam Manifesto.pdf
ATT00007.htm

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cheryl Nenn" <Cheryl_nenn@milwaukeeriverkeeper.org>
To: "Coggs, Milele" <mcoggs@milwaukee.gov>, "Kovac, Nik" <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>, "Bohl, James" <jbohl@milwaukee.gov>, "Murphy, Michael (Alderman)" <mmurph@milwaukee.gov>, "Stamper II, Russell" <Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov>, "Rainey, Khalif" <Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: "Hamilton, Ashanti" <ahamil@milwaukee.gov>, "Bauman, Robert" <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>, "Johnson, Cavalier" <Cavalier.Johnson2@milwaukee.gov>, "Donovan, Robert" <rdonov@milwaukee.gov>, "Perez, Jose" <JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov>, "Zielinski, Tony" <tzieli@milwaukee.gov>, "Witkowski, Terry" <twitko@milwaukee.gov>, "Lewis, Chantia" <Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov>, "Borkowski, Mark" <Mark.Borkowski@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Estabrook Dam Removal Petitions and Links

Esteemed Common Council Members on ZND (cc Common Council)—

Per my testimony on Tuesday at ZND, attached is a cover letter and copy of the 1,854 petition signers we have so far for Estabrook Dam Removal, about 1,022 of which are City of Milwaukee residents. I'm also attaching a petition with over 100 signers, which are Glendale residents/homeowners upstream of the dam that want the dam removed to minimize their flood risk (including map) so you know that there are a lot of homeowners upstream that want to see this dam removed because of flood risk. Many of these homeowners have been close to flooding several times during the last several years, when the dam has been in an OPEN state (including most notably the 2010 storms that flooded a big section of Milwaukee and Shorewood), and are very concerned about the prospects of it being repaired.

We also have information on the Estabrook Dam issue available on two websites that we manage:
http://milwaukeeriverkeeper.org/estabrook-dam-removal/
http://savethemilwaukeeriver.com

Both of these websites have links to a video we recently produced, which shows you the condition of the dam in more detail and talks about why we need to remove it. The direct link for the video can be seen here:
https://www.facebook.com/mkeriverkeeper/videos/10154943039952841/

I'm also attaching what we are calling the "manifesto" about Estabrook Dam, which was written by Will Warwrzyn, a recently retired fisheries biologist who worked on the Milwaukee River, fisheries, and dam removal for over 37 years.

We realize there are concerns with the current process. That said, these concerns are lessened for us because the dam/parkland will remain in public control at all times, and all property will be returned to Milwaukee County Parks after dam removal (99% of it being returned immediately). We support the City of Milwaukee rezoning the property to Institutional to allow for dam removal, and then to rezone the property back to Parkland at an opportune time.

We have been working to remove Estabrook Dam for well over ten years and now have 3 lawsuits against Milwaukee County. In addition to our public nuisance lawsuit, which we won (the judge is waiting to make a decision on the "remedy" to the nuisance following the political processes), we also filed a public purpose case challenging that $4 million to repair the dam (plus $4 additional million for O&M over the 20 year projected life expectancy for the dam) was largely using public funds for a private purpose—to create a "lake" or impoundment that benefits a few dozen private landowners to the detriment of all other taxpayers. We also filed an open meetings case violation, because we were able to get the policy of the County changed to dam removal in December 2014, and then that policy was changed back to repair at a Finance Committee meeting early in 2015 where there was no public notice. The subsequent vote for dam repair (which several Supervisors alluded to at the ZND meeting) was tied to a bonding package that was a "must pass" measure to allow work to go forward on many county projects including the airport restoration. That is the only reason it was unanimous.

In short, the process has been marred, and despite widespread public support for removal, despite science and real economic realities for the County (including over $300 Million in deferred maintenance per the Public Policy Forum), the County Board has failed again and again to even listen to recommendations of their own staff at the Parks Department and Office of Emergency Management that dam removal was a better option.

We hope that you will vote to support dam removal, and rezoning of this property (temporarily) to allow for the land containing the dam to be sold so that MMSD can demolish the dam. This is also consistent with the Milwaukee River Flood Management Plan, and will be the best thing for the Milwaukee River and for the taxpayers.

Please let us know if we can provide you with any information or answer any questions to help inform your decision.

Respectfully,

Cheryl

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